FACIAL FEMINIZATION IN A TRANSGENDER PATIENT: CASE REPORT

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Background / Objetives

Transitioning represents a profoundly delicate phase in an individual's journey. Sexual patterns are identified by facial characteristics, with clear differences between the male and female gender. [1] Treatment for facial feminization or masculinization is individualized and multidisciplinary comprising psychological, hormonal, dermatological and surgical stages, in addition to injectable procedures, which are increasingly gaining ground today as complementary to surgical therapy. [2-6]

The aim of this study was to report a case of facial feminization of a transgender patient using injectable procedures including hyaluronic acid (Juvéderm), collagen biostimulator (HArmonyCA) and botulinum toxin (Botox). The Vectra 3D H2 system was used as a resource for comparing pre-and post-procedure images.

Methods

This transgender patient, 24 years old, sought care for facial feminization. After clinical evaluation the objective of the treatment was to leave the patient's face with a less tired, more attractive and more feminine appearance. The treatment plan was organized using the MD Codes™ methodology with Juvéderm Voluma (VM), Juvéderm Volbella (VB) and Juvéderm Volift (VL) fillers. In addition, Botulinum Toxin type A (Botox) was used in the upper third of the face and periorbicular region of the eyes. HArmonyCA collagen biostimulator was used in the subcutaneous layer posterior of the ligament line.[7] Treatments were carried out in four sessions with an interval of 1 month between each of them.

Figures 1 (A-I): Initial assessment 2D images.

Code	Product	VOLUME (mL) per site
T1	VM	0.2 mL
T2	VM	0.2 mL
E1	VM	0.1 mL
Ck1 (A,B,C)	VM	0.3 ml (0.1 per point)
Ck3	VM	0.2 mL
NL	VM	0.3 mL
C1	VM	0.2 mL
Total:	VM	**1.5 mL**

Table 1: Session 1 Planning: Juvéderm Voluma (VM). Total: 3 syringes.

Code	Product	VOLUME (mL) per site
Ck1 (Top model look)	HArmonyCA	0.5 mL
Ck4	HArmonyCA	0.75 mL
Ck3	VM	0.5 mL
Total:	HArmonyCA + VM	**1.75 mL** A

Region	Product	Units (U)
Frontal	Botox	30U
Glabellar (Procerus + Corrugators)	Botox	22U
Orbicularis oculi (R+L)	Botox	12U
Mental	Botox	4U
Total:	Botox	**68U** B

Table 2 (A and B): Session 2 Planning: Juvéderm Voluma (VM): 1 syringe; HArmonyCA: 2 syringes (A) and Botox 68U (B).

Code	Product	VOLUME (mL) per site
SOOF	VL	0.5 mL
Tt	VB	1.0 mL
Lp	VB	0.5 mL
Total:	VL+ VB	**2 mL**

Table 3: Session 3 Planning: Juvéderm Volift (VL): 1 syringe; Juvéderm Volbella (VB): 3 syringes. Total: 4 syringes.

Results

The treatment was very well accepted by the patient. The volumization of the mid third of the face, the refinement of the chin and lip filling left the face with more feminine characteristics. Botulinum Toxin (Botox) provided an opening in the eyes and a slight arching of the eyebrows. HArmonyCA applied in the area behind the ligaments of the face provided an increase in dermal thickness, also improving the facial contour, performing a "lifting" effect, producing a more delicate facial profile. The refinement of the SOOF and tear trough regions increased the positive attributes of the face, providing the patient with a less tired, less sad and less angry appearance.

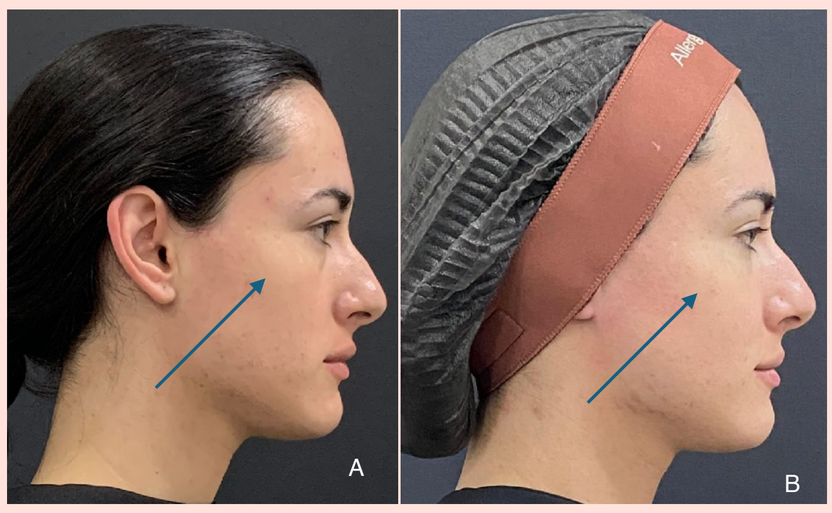


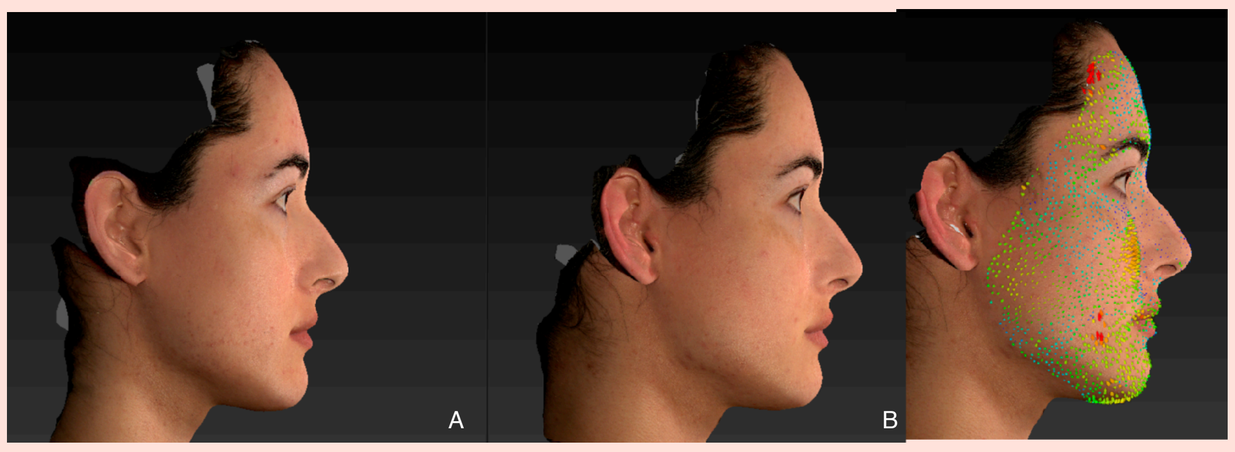
Figure 2: Profile view: Before (A) and after (B) treatment (2D Images).

Negative attributes (realities)	Positive attributes (dreams)
Look less tired	Look more attractive
Look less sad	Look more feminine
Look less angry	

Table 4: Table adapted from de Maio M. Et al [6] showing emotional characteristics before and after treatment. We can observe changes especially in the mid third of the face that made the patient look more feminine and naturally more attractive.

Figure 3: Frontal view: Before (A) and after (B) treatment including direction and magnitude of skin movement (Vectra 3D Imaging System).

Figure 4: Oblique 3/4 view: Before (A) and after (B) treatment including direction and magnitude of skin movement (Vectra 3D Imaging System).



Figures 5: Profile view: Before (A) and after (B) treatment including direction and magnitude of skin movement (Vectra 3D Imaging System).

Conclusion

Minimally invasive procedures allow facial remodeling of transgender women, yielding fast and reversible results, and should be considered important and versatile tools in the clinician's therapeutic assortment during the transition process of transgender women. Tailoring of the cosmetic treatment plan is vital to enhance the self-confidence during the transitioning period.

Figures 6: Images from the patient's personal collection. Image A at 9 years old when he decided he wanted to be a girl. Post-treatment images (B and C) on the patient's graduation day.

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